



Adoption Guidelines

for the

Foreign Service Family

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FAMILY LIAISON OFFICE

April 1992



United States Department of State

Adoption Guidelines for the Foreign Service Family

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The Family Liaison Office (M/FLO) has received many inquiries about the adoption process from Foreign Service families. We have compiled this information in the hope that it will answer many of your initial questions about the adoption process. The information in this handout is not meant to be all-inclusive nor is it meant to endorse any particular agencies or businesses. The Department of State and the Family Liaison Office are not responsible for the services rendered by these agencies.

If there are any questions regarding this document, please contact:

Family Liaison Office
Room 1212A
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520-7310

Maryann Minutillo
Director, Family Liaison Office

ADOPTION GUIDELINES

Introduction

Adoption (like giving birth) ultimately involves a leap of faith. After we have thought and considered and compared and planned, there still comes that point where we just have to trust our emotions.

-The Barker Foundation

Adoption is a complex process with many possible complications. It is also a process that is somewhat ambiguous. It is essential that the prospective couple assess the situation very carefully. The adoptive parent(s) also need(s) to do a great deal of personal investigation. While it is important to choose a reputable and reliable adoption agency that will help you through the process, it is even more crucial for the adoptive parents to recognize their motivation for adopting a child. Adopting internationally introduces many new issues into a family's life. Every family will deal with these in different ways based on their experiences, approach to life, and their child's personality and age. These issues, ultimately the first crucial steps in adoption, should be discussed between the couple, with professionals, as well as with other parents who have gone through the process before. Lois Ruskai Melina's book, *Raising Adopted Children*, may provide useful information when thinking about the adoption alternative. As a member of the Foreign Service, you may also wish to contact the Employee Consultation Service to discuss some of your concerns with their counselors. They can be reached at 202-647-4929.

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I. Guidelines to International Adoptions for Foreign Service Personnel Living Overseas

Foreign Service personnel *living overseas* should:

1. Contact the Consular Section at your post and tell them of your plans. You can obtain a list of attorneys within the country who will be able to help in the adoption process and give general information on host country adoption procedures. The Consular Affairs Bureau in Washington also keeps some records on adoption procedures in selected countries. Contact them for more information and a copy of that office's general flyer "International Adoptions."
2. Contact the Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) overseas office in the district in which you are living (see attached list). Dealing with the INS is a lengthy process and should be started as soon as you decide to adopt.
 - a. Obtain the I-600 and I-600A forms from INS as well as their publication, "The Immigration of Adopted and Prospective Adoptive Children" (M-249Y). Fill out the forms as soon as possible, especially if you already have a child waiting, and return them with the necessary documents (i.e., fingerprints, adoption decree, proof of petitioner's citizenship, etc.).

Note: It is required by INS that ALL documents be ORIGINALS or OFFICIAL COPIES of the original records bearing seals of the appropriate officials.

- b. In all cases, families must have a home study before they can submit the petition for the child's visa. Even before a child is located, adopting parent(s) can begin this process and file an "Advance Processing Request" (Form I-600A) with

INS. The form's approval is valid for 1 year. The "Advance Processing Request" may take anywhere from 6 weeks to 3 months to process. Once a child is located, then the adopting parents can file a petition I-600 either with the INS in the United States or with an INS or consular officer overseas. No petition can be approved without a home study. Consular personnel cannot approve a visa without an INS-approved I-600 or I-600A.

3. Understand that the problem that most often accounts for delays or denials of visas for adoptive children is misunderstanding the definition of "ORPHAN." In order to be admitted to the United States, he/she must meet the legal definition of an orphan as stated in the Immigration Act of 1952, as amended: "a child under the age of sixteen who is an orphan because of the death or disappearance of, abandonment or desertion by, or separation or loss from, both parents, or for whom the sole surviving parent is incapable of providing the proper care (according to the standards of adoptee's country) and has, in writing, irrevocably released the child for immigration and adoption." A child is not normally considered "abandoned or deserted" if he/she lives with his/her birth parent(s) prior to the adoption, or if the birth parent(s) have any control over who will adopt their child. Normally only a child abandoned in an institution meets these requirements.
4. Arrange for a home study. If an adopting family is residing overseas, it may be necessary to have the home study performed in the country in which they reside. Such a study must be done by an agency licensed to do so by one of the states in the United States. Some countries in which international adoptions are common may have many such agencies, others few or none. Check with the services below or INS for the names of licensed agencies.

The American Branch of International Social Services
95 Madison Avenue, 3rd floor
New York, NY 10016
Tel. 212-532-5858

National Committee for Adoptions
1930-17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009-6207
Tel. 202-328-1200

In addition to the process described above, it is also possible to bring an adopted child into the United States under a separate provision of law that permits immigration by adopted children who have been in the legal and physical custody of their adoptive parents for 2 years. We advise caution in counting on this provision, however, since unforeseen circumstances may require a Foreign Service employee to return to the United States ahead of a planned departure date. If the child has not been in the legal and physical custody of the adopting parents for a full 2 years, then the alternate requirements outlined above would have to be fulfilled.

Expeditious Naturalization

The Office of Employee Relations in the Bureau of Personnel (PER/ER) handles expeditious naturalization. Any questions should be addressed to them.

PER/ER
Room 431, SA-6
Department of State
Washington, DC 20502-0602
703-516-1675

- If the adoption has been finalized overseas, then it is possible to have the child expeditiously naturalized. However, *this option is only available to Foreign Service members who have onward overseas assignments or who will return to post after a visit to the United States.*

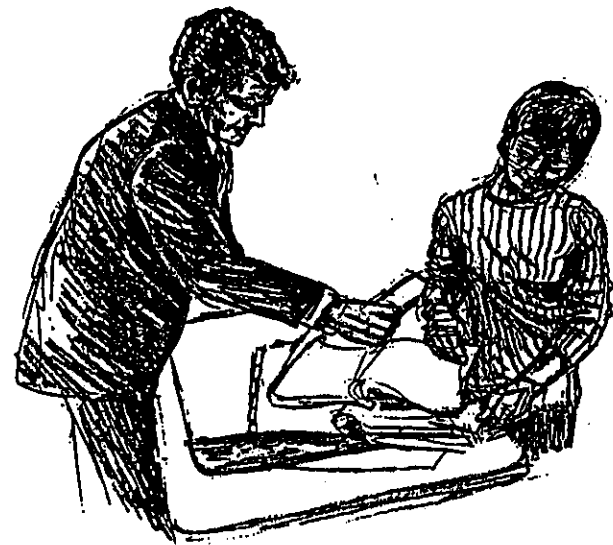
INS will not expedite naturalization if a family is returning to the United States for an assignment.

The following items, certified copies only, must be submitted to PER/ER, when seeking expeditious naturalization:

- Form N-643, "Application for Certification of Citizenship on Behalf of an Adopted Child";
- Copy of adoption papers;
- Copy of birth certificate;
- Copy of divorce decree, if either parent has ever been divorced;
- Certification of employment by U.S. Government as a Foreign Service officer;
- A letter stating the beginning date of employment with the State Department, when and why the employee and child will be in the United States, name of spouse and date of marriage, citizenship of spouse, adopted child's name and age, and the date the family will be leaving the United States to return to post or for another assignment. The letter should request that INS "expedite the naturalization of (child's name) in (month)." There is a \$90 fee.

Expeditious naturalization is not retroactive. All INS offices require 3 months to complete the paperwork for expeditious naturalization. Parents should submit all forms well in advance of their holiday in the United States. Naturalization occurs only on the first Tuesday of the month.

While most foreign adoptions are recognized in the United States, it may be necessary, in some cases, to re-adopt children who have already been adopted in their country of birth.



Re-Adopting a Child in the United States

All states have different laws regarding adoption and often the various counties within the states do also. It is sometimes recommended that children be re-adopted in the United States in order to avoid possible future complications. The following information is for the Washington, DC area.

Fairfax County, Virginia

- If the child is legally adopted in a country with which the United States has diplomatic relations, then a full home study is not necessary. (Note: the home study requirement for immigrant visa processing is always required.) However, you will need to petition the circuit court, which will then order the Department of Human Development to complete a report of investigation. This report will include at least one home visit. After the Department files its report, the court may enter a final order.

- If the child has lived continuously in the family's home for 3 years immediately prior to filing the petition for adoption, the court may omit the interlocutory (temporary) order. A final order may be entered after the Department of Human Development has completed the report of investigation.
- If the child has resided with the family for less than 3 years prior to filing the petition, an interlocutory order will be issued for a 6-months probationary period requiring a minimum of three home visits before the final papers can be entered. It is possible for the interlocutory order to be waived if the child has been legally adopted in a country with which we have diplomatic relations. However, the child must have resided with the family continuously for 1 year prior to filing the petition or resided continuously for 6 months with the family and received at least three supervisory visits during that time in order to waive the order.
- The Commissioner's Office handles all requests for expeditious adoption. If the family is leaving for another post before the adoption will be completed, then the Commissioner will work with the new country of residence in order to complete the home study.
- As a member of the Foreign Service, in order to be eligible for adoption in Fairfax County, you must be a legal resident of Virginia.

District of Columbia

- If the child has already been adopted but will also be adopted in the District of Columbia, the family must reside there for 1 year prior to filing

adoption papers. If the family can prove legal residence in the District of Columbia, then they may file adoption papers before the end of the waiting period..

- Home studies, while not necessarily a requirement if the child is already legally adopted in another country, are completed on a first-come, first-serve basis. You can request a home study from a private company, but you must pay for it. For more information on private social workers, contact the District of Columbia's Department of Social Services or look in the Yellow Pages under Social Service Organizations/Social Workers.
- Adoption papers should be filed with the DC Superior Court.

Montgomery County, Maryland

- Montgomery County handles no private adoption matters. If the adoption is private, then the adoptive parents must contract with an independent organization to do the home study. Contact the Department of Social Services or look in the Yellow Pages under Social Service Organizations/Social Workers.



II. Guidelines to International Adoptions for Foreign Service Personnel Living in the United States

Foreign Service personnel *residing in the United States* should:

1. Contact an established organization that can assist a couple or single person wishing to adopt a child internationally. A list of some organizations can be found in Section V. (This list is not an endorsement nor all inclusive, but is meant as an accommodation to assist you. The State Department can not accept any responsibility for services rendered.) These organizations can provide assistance with everything from pre-decision counseling through the final home visit. They also provide assistance within the country of adoption. In addition, there are many support organizations that can provide extensive information and help at each stage of adoption. One well-known group is FACE (Families Adopting Children Everywhere). Their helpline is 301-488-2656. They offer meetings as well as a bibliography of publications available in bookstores, libraries, and through support organizations.

2. Contact the Immigration and Naturalization Service Office in your area for information. Directory Assistance or the Blue Pages in the phone book of a large city will give you the number of the office nearest you.

a. The child must meet the INS definition of "orphan:"

—"a child under the age of 16 who is an orphan because of the death or disappearance of, abandonment or desertion by, or separation or loss from, both parents, or for whom the sole surviving parent is incapable of providing the proper

care (according to the standard of living in the adoptee's country) and has, in writing, irrevocably released the child for emigration and adoption."

b. The child must have a visa in order to enter the United States.

—If a child has been chosen for adoption, an I-600 form must be filled out and approved by INS. If requested, INS will send notification of their approval via telegram—the "visas 38" (if the child has already been adopted abroad) or "visas 39" (if the child will be adopted in the United States). Immigrant visa fees are \$140 and there is a fee for a medical examination.

3. As soon as the immigrant child has arrived in the United States, the family must contact the local Social Services Office for adoption. The following information is for the local DC area.

a. *Montgomery County, Maryland* 301-468-4369

Montgomery County does not handle any private adoptions. If the adoption is private, the family must contract with an outside company to do the home study and complete the adoption. Consult the yellow pages under Social Services/Social Workers.

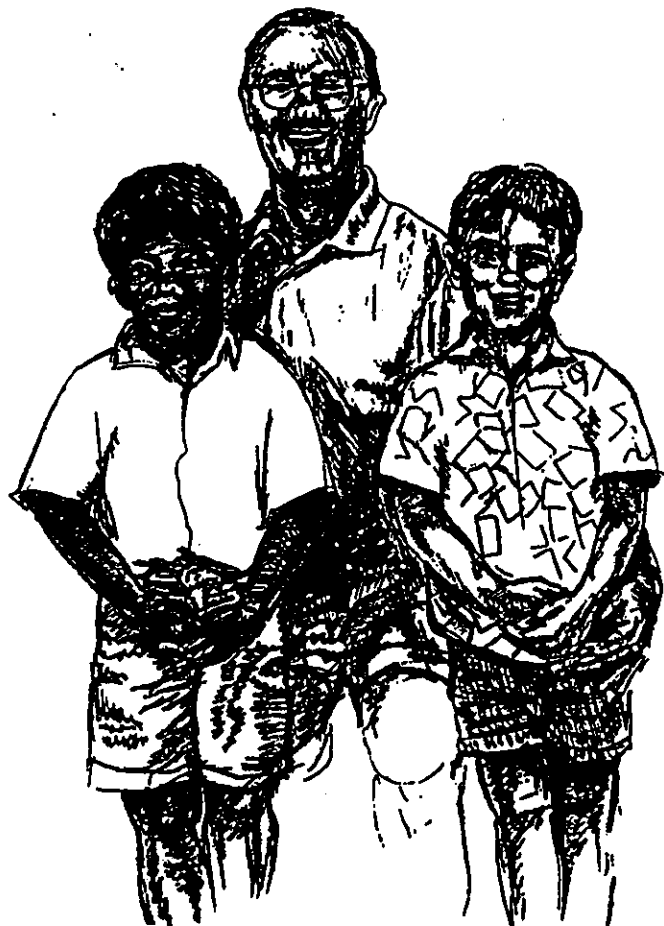
b. *Fairfax County, Virginia* 703-324-7500

The family must be permanent residents of Virginia. Once the home study has been completed (it is difficult to estimate how long the home study will take), an interlocutory (temporary) order will be issued for a 6-month supervisory period after which the court may enter the final order and the adoption will be final. If the family is reassigned to a post before the adoption is final, they must inform their social

worker and the county will attempt to work with the new country of residence to complete the home study, etc.

c. *District of Columbia, 202-724-3393*

The family must live in DC for a year before filing the paperwork for an adoption. After 1 year, papers can be filed at the DC Superior Court. Home studies are completed on a first-come, first-serve basis and are required for adoption. A private company can be hired to complete the home study for a fee, which will be absorbed by the adoptive family.



III. Issues To Consider When Adopting Internationally

Below are some questions that may be helpful to think about. These questions are not meant to have definitive answers.

1. Is it important to me that my child look like me, i.e., resemble me physically and/or exhibit my talents and characteristics?
2. How do I feel about the physical characteristics of a child of another race? Do I find certain physical and racial traits unattractive?
3. Am I convinced that love and caring are what shape a child or do I believe in biological determinism over which I have no control? How will I deal with environment versus genetics?
4. Would I feel that the child was really mine or just "somebody else's kid" who happened to be living in my home?
5. Would I be willing to "tell the story" over and over when people ask if my child is adopted?
6. What would happen if illnesses or handicaps appeared after I had adopted? Would I feel cheated?
7. What is my motive in adopting? Is it because I want a child to love and with whom to share my home or is it because I want to "save the world"—save the child from a deprived existence?
8. Will I be willing to face possible prejudice and misunderstanding from family, friends, or community in the case of an interracial adoption?
9. How will I help a child integrate his/her dual heritage?
10. How will my perception of my child's biological and cultural background impact on the child?
11. How can I help my child deal with prejudice arising from his/her adoption or race?
12. What are my greatest concerns about adoption?

Note: Questions courtesy of the Barker Foundation.

IV. INS Service Offices Overseas

Athens, Greece

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

91 Vasilissis Sophias Blvd.	c/o American Embassy, Athens
10160 Athens, Greece	APO AE 09842
Tel [30] (1) 721-2951	FAX [30] (1) 646-3450

Bangkok, Thailand

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

95 Wireless Road	c/o American Embassy,
Bangkok, Thailand	Bangkok
Tel [66] (2) 252-504019	Box 12
FAX [66] (2) 254-2990	APO AP 96546

Ciudad Juarez, Mexico

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Avenue Lopez Mateos 924N	c/o American Consulate
Ciudad Juarez, Mexico	General
Tel [52] (16) 13-4048	Ciudad Juarez
FAX [52] (16) 16-9056	P.O. Box 10545
	El Paso, TX 79995-0545

Frankfurt, Germany

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Siesmayerstrasse 21	c/o American Consulate
6000 Frankfurt, Germany	General Frankfurt
Tel [49] (69) 7535-0	Box 12
FAX [49] (69) 748-938	APO AE 09213

Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Progreso 175	Box 3088—Guadalajara
Guadalajara, Mexico	Laredo, TX 78044-3088
Tel [52] (36) 25-2998	FAX [52] (36) 26-6549

Hong Kong, British Crown Colony U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

26 Garden Road	c/o American Consulate
Hong Kong, BCC	General Hong Kong
Tel [852] (5) 239011	Box 30
FAX [852] (5) 845-1598	APO AP 96522

Nairobi, Kenya

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Moi/Haile Selassie Ave.	c/o American Embassy—
P.O. Box 30137	Nairobi
Nairobi, Kenya	Box 12
Tel [254] (2) 334141	APO AE 09831
FAX [254] (2) 340838	

London, England

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

24/31 Grosvenor Sq.	c/o American Embassy—
London, W1A 1AE	London
England	Box 6
Tel [44] (71) 499-9000	APO AE 09498
	FAX [44] (71) 409-1637

Manila, Philippines

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

1201 Roxas Blvd.	c/o American Embassy —
Manila, Philippines	Manila
Tel [63] (2) 522-7116	APO AP 96440
FAX [63] (2) 522-4361	

Mexico City, Mexico

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Paseo de la Reforma, 305	c/o American Embassy—
Colonia Cuauhtemoc	Mexico
06500 Mexico, D.F., Mexico	P.O. Box 3087
Tel [52] (5) 211-0042	Laredo, TX 78044-3087
FAX [52] (5) 511-9980	

Monterrey, N.L., Mexico
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Avenida Constitucion 411	c/o American Consulate
Poniente 64000 Monterrey	General
Nuevo Laredo, Mexico	P.O. Box 3098
Tel [52] (83) 45-2120	Laredo, TX 78044-3098
	FAX [52] (83) 42-0177

New Delhi, India
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Shananti Path	c/o American Embassy—
Chanakyapuri 110021	New Delhi
New Delhi, India	Washington, DC 20520-9000
Tel [91] (11) 600651	FAX [91] (11) 687-2028

Panama City, Republic of Panama
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Apartado 6959	c/o American Embassy—
Panama 5	Panama
Republica de Panama	APO AA 34002
Tel [507] 27-1777	FAX [507] 03-9470

Rome, Italy
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Via Veneto 119/A	c/o American Embassy—Rome
00187-Rome, Italy	APO AE 09624
Tel [39] (6) 46741	FAX [39] (6) 467-42356

Seoul, Korea
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

82 Sejong-Ro	c/o American Embassy—Seoul
Chongro-ku	APO AP 96205
Seoul, Korea	FAX [82] (2) 738-8845
Tel [82] (2) 732-2601	

Singapore, Republic of Singapore
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

30 Hill Street	c/o American Embassy—
Singapore 0617	Singapore
Tel [65] 338-0251	APO AP 96534
	FAX [65] 338-4550

Tijuana, Mexico
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Tapachula 96	c/o American Consulate
Tijuana, Mexico	General—Tijuana
Tel [52] (66) 81-7400	P.O. Box 439039
FAX [52] (66) 81-8016	San Diego, CA 92143-9039

Vienna, Austria
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Boltzmanngasse 16	c/o American Embassy Vienna
A-1091	APO AE 09108
Vienna, Austria	FAX [43] (222) 310-0682
Tel [43] (222) 31-55-11	

V. Reference Phone Numbers and Addresses

The adoption process is a long, difficult, and expensive one. It is not possible to give one telephone number or person who will be able to help with the adoption. The following is a list of numbers you may find helpful in the process.

Local Government Agencies

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)
Washington District Office
4420 North Fairfax Drive, Room 210
Arlington, VA 22203
202-307-1501

Montgomery County Department of Social Services
Child Welfare Services Division
401 Hungerford Drive, 3rd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850
301-217-3588 or 301-217-1641

Fairfax County Social Services
12011 Government Center Parkway
Suite 200
Fairfax, VA 22035
703-246-7500

District of Columbia Department of Human Services
609 H Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-724-3990

Private Adoption Agencies and Services

The Barker Foundation
4114 River Road, NW
Washington, DC 20016
202-363-7751

Cradle of Hope Adoption Center
1815 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20006
202-296-4700
FAX 202-785-8131

The Datz Foundation
4545-42nd Street, NW, Suite 209
Washington, DC 20016
202-686-3400

FACE (Families Adopting Children Everywhere)
(An adoptive parents' support organization)
Maryland Chapter

P.O. Box 28058
Baltimore, MD 21239
Helpline: 410-488-2656

Northern Virginia Chapter

Lyndi Balven
4629 North 35th Street
Arlington, VA 22207
703-536-6905

International Social Services
95 Madison Avenue, 3rd floor
New York, NY 10016
212-532-5858

National Committee for Adoption
1930-17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009-6207
202-328-1200

World Child, Inc.
4300-16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011
202-829-5244

State Department Offices

Employee Consultation Service (ECS)
M/MED, Room 3243
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520
202-647-4929

Family Liaison Office (M/FLO)
Room 1212A
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520-7310
202-647-1076

Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA)
Office of Citizen Consular Services
Room 4817
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520
202-647-3444

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INTRODUCTION

American citizens are seeking to adopt children in ever increasing numbers. With the reduction in children available for adoption in the United States, more and more U.S. citizens have adopted children from other countries. In 1995, more than 9,500 children came to the United States from foreign countries, either adopted abroad by U.S. citizens or as potential adoptees. This brochure provides both information and guidance to U.S. citizens seeking information about international adoption.

International adoption is essentially a private legal matter between a private individual (or couple) who wishes to adopt and a foreign court, which operates under that country's laws and regulations. U.S. authorities cannot intervene on behalf of prospective parents with the courts in the country where the adoption takes place. However, the Department of State does provide extensive information about the adoption processes in various countries and the U.S. legal requirements to bring a child adopted abroad to the United States. The Office of Children's Issues in the Bureau of Consular Affairs provides brochures describing the adoption process in numerous countries. Adoption information is also available on our automated fax system and Internet (See Appendix C). In addition, we provide recorded information on international adoption for several countries on a twenty-four hour basis through our recorded telephone messages at 202-736-7000 and at our Internet site at <http://travel.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please call us at 202-647-2688. You may also fax us at 202-647-2835, or write to us at:

Office of Children's Issues
CA/OCS/CI, Room 4811
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520-4818

I. General Information

The Role of the State Department:

The State Department CAN:

- ☐ Provide information about international adoption in foreign countries
- ☐ Provide general information about U.S. visa requirements for international adoption
- ☐ Make inquiries of the U.S. consular section abroad regarding the status of a specific adoption case and clarify documentation or other requirements
- ☐ Ensure that U.S. citizens are not discriminated against by foreign authorities or courts

The State Department CANNOT:

- ☐ Locate a child or children available for adoption
- ☐ Become directly involved in the adoption process in another country
- ☐ Act as an attorney or represent adoptive parents in court
- ☐ Order that an adoption take place or that a visa be issued

Other Sources of Information:

The Office of Children's Issues frequently receives requests for general information about international adoption. Questions range from how to begin the adoption process to how to find an agency, or what countries to consider. The public library and local telephone yellow pages (see "Adoption Services") are good sources of general information, including adoption agencies and attorneys who specialize in adoption, support groups and books and magazines related to adoption (See Appendices A and B). Additionally, a number of umbrella organizations provide extensive general information which can be very helpful both before and after the adoption. Several of these organizations publish articles and lists of adoption agencies. For specific information about agencies operating in your area, call your state social services agency or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) office.

Adoption opportunities, regulations, and even the social climate may change at any time, making it impossible to categorically state in which countries adoptions will

proceed smoothly. For example, social and religious restrictions in Africa and the Middle East make adoption difficult in those regions. However, the Department of State does maintain statistics indicating the number of visas (IR-3 and IR-4) for adoption issued yearly by country. The list in Appendix C, Section III (page 19) gives the top 25 countries for fiscal year 1995. Since countries do change their adoption regulations, it is necessary for you to thoroughly investigate a country before initiating an adoption.

II. Guidelines on International Adoption

To complete an international adoption and bring a child to the United States, prospective adoptive parent(s) must fulfill the requirements set by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), the foreign country in which the child resides and sometimes the state of residence of the adoptive parent(s). Although procedures and documentary requirements may seem repetitive, obtaining several copies of the same document is advisable to meet documentary requirements. The process is designed to protect the child, the adoptive parent(s) and the birth parent(s).

The U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) is the U.S. immigration law regarding the issuance of visas to nationals of other countries, including children adopted abroad or coming to the United States for adoption. The basic statutory provision concerning adopted children is in INA Section 101(b)(1)(E), which provides immigrant classification for "a child adopted while under the age of sixteen years if the child has been in the legal custody of, and has resided with, the adopting parent or parents for at least two years." This so-called "two-year provision" is for individuals who are temporarily residing abroad and wish to adopt a child in accordance with the laws of the foreign state where they reside. Most adoptive parents, however, are not able to spend two years abroad living with the child. Therefore, they seek benefits under another provision of the INA, Section 101(b)(1)(F), which grants immigrant classification to orphans who have been adopted or will be adopted by U.S. citizens. Under this section of the law, both the child and the adoptive parents must satisfy a number of requirements established by the INA and the related regulations, but the two-year residency requirement is eliminated. Only after it is demonstrated that both the parents and the child qualify, can the child be issued a visa to travel to the United States.

For specific information about INS requirements, see the U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, brochure M-249Y, *The Immigration of Adopted and Prospective Adoptive Children*. The INS also has a toll-free information number, from which you can obtain form M-249 booklets and the telephone numbers of local INS offices in the United States. The toll-free number is 1-800-755-0777. Your adoption agency or attorney will require specific documents, as will your state

of residence. These requirements may appear daunting. The chart, in Appendix C, Section IV, serves as a checklist for many of the documents that you will be expected to provide. In general, all agencies, whether state or private, require proof of citizenship, marriage (if a married couple), health, financial stability and information about arrests or certification of a clean criminal record. In addition, the home study (a report on the family prepared by a licensed social worker or other person licensed to perform home studies) normally is required by both the foreign government and the INS. Additional documents may be requested by the local government of the country from which you wish to adopt, your chosen adoption agency, or attorney.

● Immigration and Naturalization Service Approval

Adoptive and prospective adoptive parent(s) must comply with U.S. immigration procedures, initiated through the INS in the United States in order to bring an adoptive child to the U.S.. Simply locating a child in a foreign country and going to the U.S. embassy to obtain a visa for the child will not meet these requirements. An orphan cannot be brought to the United States without a visa, which is based upon an INS approved petition (form I-600). To facilitate the process, we suggest that you contact the INS office which has jurisdiction over your place of residence in the United States for information early in the pre-adoption process.

The *Orphan Petition* form has two parts: I-600 and I-600A. The I-600 is used when a specific child has been identified by the adoptive parents. The I-600 is filed with the appropriate office of the INS in the United States. The INS adjudicates all aspects of the I-600 petition — including the suitability of the adoptive parent(s), compliance with any state pre-adoption requirements (if the child is to be adopted after entry into the United States), and the qualifications of the child as an orphan within the meaning of section 101(b)(1)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (See INS brochure M-249Y). The INS notifies the U.S. embassy or consulate which processes visas for the country where the child is located when the petition has been approved. At the same time, the approved I-600 petition and supporting documents are sent to the National Visa Center in New Hampshire, where the petition is assigned a computer tracking code and then mailed to the appropriate U.S. consular office abroad.

The I-600A form should be filed if the prospective adoptive parent(s) have not yet identified a child or intend to go abroad to locate a child for adoption. Like the I-600, this application is filed at the local INS office in the United States with jurisdiction over the place of residence of the adoptive parent(s). INS evaluates the suitability of the prospective adoptive parent(s). When the application is approved, notification is sent to the adoptive parents and sent to the appropriate U.S. consular officer or overseas INS office if one or both of the prospective adoptive parent(s) will be traveling overseas and wish to file the orphan petition abroad. The adoptive parents may then file the I-600 petition with the local INS office in the United States, or overseas with the INS, or with the U.S. consular office abroad. Although only one parent must

be present to file the I-600 petition overseas, that parent **must** be a U.S. citizen. In addition, if only one of the two parents travels, the petition must nevertheless be properly executed (signed) by both parents. **This second signature cannot be done by power of attorney. The petition also must be completely filled out before either parent signs.** Parents can, however, use express mail service to obtain the other signature.

● The Foreign Adoption Process

Although adoption procedures vary from country to country, most countries require that prior to any court action, a child placed for adoption be legally recognized as an orphan or, in the case where a parent is living, be legally and irrevocably released for adoption in a manner provided for under local foreign law. In addition, the adoption laws in most countries require the full adoption of the child in the foreign court after the child has been declared an orphan or released by the living parent to an appropriate foreign authority. Some countries do allow simple adoption, which means that **the adopting parent(s) are granted guardianship of the child by the foreign court. This will permit the child to leave the foreign country to be adopted in the country of the adopting parent(s).** A few countries do allow adoptive parents to adopt through a third party without actually traveling to that country. It is important to note that a **foreign country's determination that the child is an orphan does not guarantee that the child will be considered an orphan under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act,** since the foreign country may use different standards. Questions which involve interpretation of specific foreign laws should be addressed to a foreign attorney operating in the country where the adoption will take place.

Some countries accept the properly authenticated home study of the prospective adoptive parent(s) at face value, while other countries also require a personal appearance by the adoptive parent(s) before the foreign court. Sometimes, countries require a period of residence by one or both adoptive parents. In these cases, prospective adoptive parents may find it necessary to spend an extended period of time in the foreign country awaiting the completion of the foreign adoption documents. Additionally, several countries require a post-adoption follow-up conducted by the adoption agency or the foreign country's consul in the United States.

III. Immigrant Visas

When the foreign adoption (or guardianship process in those countries which allow guardianship) is completed, the adoptive parent(s) can apply for an immigrant visa (IR-3 for a child adopted abroad or IR-4 for a child to be adopted in the United States) at the appropriate U.S. consular office abroad. In addition to the notification of the approved I-600 or I-600A petition from the INS, the consular officer also requires

specific documentation to conduct a visa interview and to approve visa issuance. Some of these requirements are discussed below. However, we strongly suggest that adoptive parents contact the consular section conducting the visa interview prior to the actual scheduling of the interview. Remember, a visa is not permission to enter the United States. Final authority to enter the U.S. rests with the INS at the port of entry.

Meeting with the consular officer prior to the interview allows parents to obtain a list of the visa requirements and necessary forms and provides an opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns. In addition, if time permits, an early meeting may allow the consular officer to see the child for whom the visa is necessary. "Visual inspection" of the child is a requirement. It may be more convenient for all parties involved for the prospective adoptive parents not to be distracted with the child(ren) during the final visa interview. Some consular sections schedule special times to handle orphan petitions, facilitating the work flow and insuring availability of consular staff and facilities for the adoptive parents and children.

Another visa requirement is the medical examination of the child by a designated physician. The physician conducting the examination must be approved by the U.S. embassy or consulate. The medical examination focuses primarily on detecting certain serious contagious diseases or disabilities that may be a basis for visa ineligibility. If the child is found to have any of these illnesses or disabilities, the child may still be issued a visa after the illness has been treated and is no longer contagious, or after a waiver of the visa eligibility is approved by the INS. If the physician or the consular official notes that the child has a serious disease or disability, the parents will be notified and asked if they wish to proceed with the child's immigration.

Prospective adoptive parents should not rely on this medical examination to detect all possible disabilities or illnesses. You may wish to arrange an additional private medical examination if they have concerns about the child's health.

The fee for an immigrant visa is \$200, which must be paid either in local currency or U.S. dollars in cash, money order, cashier's check or certified check. Neither personal checks nor credit cards are accepted.

● The Visa Interview

The consular section will schedule the final visa interview once all the required documents have been provided and the file is complete.

This documentation includes:

- ☐ notification by the INS of the I-600 or I-600A approval
- ☐ final adoption decree or proof of custody from the foreign government
- ☐ the child's birth certificate
- ☐ the child's passport (from the country of the child's nationality)

- ❑ the completed and signed medical examination report
- ❑ necessary photographs of the child
- ❑ the visa application (Form OF 230)
- ❑ completed I-600 petition (if it was not previously approved by INS)

Although the final visa interview appears to involve a single action which may be completed quickly, the consular officer must perform several different steps required by law and regulation. The officer must review the I-600 petition, verify the child's status as an orphan, establish that the prospective parent(s) have legal custody, survey the child's medical condition and confirm that the child has the required travel documentation.

Questions concerning legal custody or proper documentation for the child must be resolved in accordance with the law of the country of the child's nationality or residence. Since requirements vary from country to country, the consular section can be helpful in explaining requirements in their local area. Nevertheless, the adoptive parent(s) or the adoption agent is responsible for meeting these requirements. As explained earlier, the child's ability to qualify for an immigrant visa as an orphan is determined by U.S. law. **An adoption by a court decree or comparable order by a competent authority does not automatically qualify a child for an immigrant visa for entry into the United States.**

● The Orphan Definition

The consular officer is particularly concerned with 1) the identity of the child, 2) the child's status as an "orphan" as defined by the INA and 3) that the release by the sole surviving parent, if necessary, is "unconditional." The documentation must satisfy these requirements. Information which casts doubt upon the child's eligibility as an orphan requires return of the petition to the approving INS office for reconsideration. If the adopting parent(s) submitted the I-600A to the INS in the United States and the approval notice was forwarded to the U.S. embassy or consulate, the consular officer must adjudicate the I-600 *Petition to Classify an Orphan as an Immediate Relative*. The consular officer has the authority, delegated by the INS, to adjudicate the I-600, relying upon the approved I-600A as demonstration of the suitability of the prospective adoptive parent(s) and their compliance with any applicable state pre-adoption requirements.

U.S. law distinguishes between children adopted overseas and children coming to the United States for adoption. Children fully adopted overseas receive IR-3 visas. To qualify for an IR-3, the child must have been seen by both parents prior to or during the adoption proceedings and the parents must meet all pre-adoption requirements of their state. Other orphan children, who are eligible for immigration, receive IR-4 visas and must be re-adopted after they enter the United States, in accordance with applicable state laws. Thus, before an IR-4 visa can be issued, the consular

officer must be sure that pre-adoption requirements by the child's future state of residence have been met.

● The Medical Examination

While the physician conducts the medical examination, the consular officer must complete the I-604 *Report on Overseas Orphan Investigation*. This report consists of a review of the facts and documents to verify that the child qualifies as an orphan. In addition, the consular officer ensures that the adoptive parents are aware of any medical problems which the medical examination may have uncovered. Only when this report is completed, can the consular officer finally approve the I-600 petition in those cases where the I-600 has not already been approved by INS. (Note: the I-600 petition can be filed overseas if at least one of the U.S. citizen adoptive parents is physically present and if INS has already approved an I-600A application). See page 5 of this brochure for more information concerning the medical examination.

● Cases Referred to INS

In the majority of cases, the consular officer confirms the documentation and proceeds with the final visa processing. Usually, the final immigrant visa can be issued within 24 hours, although some consular sections have special visa issuance times. Occasionally, the I-604 Report does not confirm that the child is an orphan as defined by the INA. If this issue remains in question, the consular officer will provide the adoptive parents or their agent with an opportunity to submit additional information. If the outstanding questions can be answered, the case can be completed. If an issue cannot be resolved, however, the consular officer cannot approve the petition and must refer the petition to the appropriate INS office for adjudication.

When a petition has been referred to INS, questions about the status of the case must be addressed to the appropriate office of that agency. Since different INS offices can have jurisdiction, it is important to understand to which INS office the petition has been referred. If INS approves or reaffirms the petition, the consular officer can resume processing the case. If the petition is referred to INS because it was determined to be a case "not clearly approvable" by the U.S. embassy or consulate, several scenarios may occur:

- 1) INS can review the documentation, and reaffirm approval of the petition.
- 2) INS can review the documents and request that the consular officer conduct a field investigation to insure that no fraud or illegal activity was involved. The embassy or consulate reports its findings to the INS for a final decision.
- 3) INS can deny the petition.

If INS denies the petition, the adoptive parents can appeal the denial to the INS Associate Commissioner for Examinations, Administrative Appeals Office for a legal ruling. Alternatively, adoptive parents can discuss other options with the INS office having jurisdiction over their case.¹

IV. Prevention of Adoption Fraud

International adoptions have become a lucrative business because of the huge demand for adoptable children. The combination of people motivated by personal gain and parents desperate to adopt a child under any circumstances, creates the potential for fraudulent adoptions. Take care to avoid these adoption scams.

You can avoid the heartache of losing a potentially adoptable child by using only reputable agencies, attorneys, and facilitators. If the answers to your questions appear to be contradictory, vague, or unrealistic, be wary. The consular section in the U.S. embassy or consulate in the country of planned adoption can provide accurate information concerning local legal practices. If you have problems with agencies or intermediaries in the United States you should report these concerns immediately to the appropriate state authorities, i.e., your state social services office, District Attorney, Better Business Bureau, or state Attorney General's office. The INS should be notified of these concerns as well.

The lack of state regulatory requirements for international adoption agencies in some states has permitted some individuals, inexperienced in the area of foreign adoptions, to set up businesses. Some prospective adoptive parents are charged exorbitant fees. Two common abuses are 1) knowingly offering a supposedly healthy child for adoption who is later found to be seriously ill, and 2) obtaining prepayment for adoption of a nonexistent or ineligible child. In some countries, it is advisable to have the child examined by a physician before completing adoption procedures. This examination is not to be confused with the routine medical examination required after completion of the adoption for visa purposes. Some states have moved to revoke licenses or prosecute the individuals connected with these fraudulent activities after receiving complaints. However, it should be noted that most adoption practitioners in the United States are legitimate professionals with experience in domestic and international adoptions.

In the international area, the Department of State consistently takes a strong stand against fraudulent adoption procedures. This policy flows from our general obligation to respect host country laws, to discourage any illegal activities and to avoid the possibility that a country may prohibit international adoptions entirely. The Department of State has unfailingly expressed its support for measures taken by foreign states to reduce adoption abuses.

¹ In rare and exceptional circumstances, children deemed ineligible for admission to the United States may qualify for "humanitarian parole" and gain entry. Only INS has the authority to grant humanitarian parole.

V. Validity of Foreign Adoptions in the United States

In most cases, the formal adoption of a child in a foreign court is legally acceptable in the United States. However, in the United States, a state court is not required to automatically recognize a foreign adoption decree. This does not suggest that the United States does not respect foreign procedures or recognize the authority of the foreign country in relation to the child. The status of the involved child can always be subject to challenge in state court unless an adoption decree is entered in a state in the United States. Many adoption practitioners recommend that the child adopted abroad be re-adopted in a court of his/her state of residence in the United States as a precautionary measure. Following a re-adoption in the state court, parents can request that a state birth certificate be issued. This should be recognized in all other U.S. states.

In some instances, re-adoption of the child in the United States is required. This often occurs if the adoptive parent(s) did not see the child prior to or during the full adoption proceedings abroad. **In the case of a married couple, both parents must see the child before the U.S. visa can be issued if the child is to be considered "adopted abroad."** Otherwise, the parent(s) must meet the pre-adoption requirements of their state of residence in order for the child to qualify for a U.S. visa to come to the U.S. for adoption under the appropriate state laws. This is true even if a full final adoption decree has been issued in the foreign country. Adoptive parent(s) should determine in advance the requirements of their own particular state of residence. This information is available through the state social services agency or your adoption practitioner.

VI. Naturalization of an Adopted Child

● Who can apply?

Specific steps in the naturalization process must be taken for a child to become a U.S. citizen. U.S. laws make it possible for a child adopted abroad to be quickly naturalized as a U.S. citizen. On March 1, 1995, Section 322 of the INA was amended to make the application process for an alien child's citizenship certificate easier for adoptive parents.

● How to Apply for Naturalization

The administrative process requires that the adoptive parent(s) file INS Form N-643, *Application for Certificate of Citizenship on behalf of an Adopted Child*, with the INS before the child is 18 years of age. The child does not become a U.S. citizen until

Form N-643 is approved and the Certificate of Citizenship is issued. The application is filed at the INS office having jurisdiction over the applicant's place of residence.

VII. Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Where do I obtain information on adopting abroad ?

A: The Office of Children's Issues maintains a file of country-specific adoption information sheets. In addition, adoption agencies, parent support groups, adoption magazines and newsletters can provide a wealth of information. Talking with families who have adopted children and specialists in adoption issues can be a helpful measure to prepare for the issues involved with an international adoption.

Q: How can I check the credentials of an adoption provider?

A: There are several ways to investigate the credentials of an adoption provider before engaging its services. It is helpful to talk with other families or individuals in your adoptive support group who have had prior experience with the agency, attorney or individual you are planning to select. The Better Business Bureau may be able to advise you if there has been a negative report about a business but would not necessarily have information concerning individuals claiming to be adoption experts. The adoption section of the state social services office and the state Attorney General's office can usually be of assistance. Finally, ask for references and check them thoroughly.

Q: How should I prepare to travel abroad?

A: What you should take when traveling abroad will depend on the country (climate and season), the length of your stay, and the particulars of the child you will adopt (age, health, etc.). In countries with limited resources, it is advisable to bring supplies from the United States. In most countries disposable diapers and disposable bottles are unavailable or very expensive. A good travel agent should be able to provide information about the availability of products and services in a country. Alternatively, you might request information from the foreign embassy or consulate of the country to which you plan to travel. The foreign country's holidays can also affect court dates, office workdays, and the country's embassy or consulate can also provide you with this information.

Q: Is it safe to travel to . . . ?

A: The U.S. Department of State, Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis Management (ACS) issues Public Announcements and Travel Warnings for particu-

lar countries and Consular Information Sheets for all countries. (See Appendix C, Section I) For assistance from ACS, call 202-647-5225. You may also wish to register with the U.S. embassy or consulate in the foreign country where you plan to adopt.

Q: How should I approach the adoption process abroad?

A: Adoption can be an emotionally stressful process, particularly while facing the additional challenges of adjusting to another culture. Gathering information on the culture of the country prior to travel and even setting aside time for sight-seeing can reduce stress and make the experience more positive. It will also provide invaluable information and experiences to relate to your child in later years. If you become ill, the U.S. embassy or consulate can provide you with a list of local attorneys and hospitals to assist if necessary.

Q: How should I obtain multiple copies of foreign documents?

A: Before you depart the country with your child you should be sure to obtain several duplicate certified / authenticated copies of your child's foreign birth certificate, adoption decree and any other relevant documents. Often these documents are necessary at home and it can be difficult to obtain copies from the foreign government later.

Q: How can I obtain information concerning attorneys, interpreters or translators in a foreign country?

A: U.S. embassies and consulates maintain lists of English-speaking foreign attorneys and have information about interpreters and translators and can refer you to other sources. Copies of lists of attorneys are also available from the U.S. Department of State's Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis Management.

Appendix A

General Adoption Information

The information provided below is designed to provide a sampling of the many organizations involved in adoption. The agencies listed are not placement agencies. The Department of State does not endorse or recommend any particular organization.

National Adoption Organizations and Parent Support Groups

*National Adoption Information Clearinghouse (NAIC)

Suite 410, 11426 Rockville Pike

Rockville MD, 20852

Tel: 301-231-6512

Internet address: <http://www.workstation.com/naicinfo>

**This organization was established by Congress to provide the general public with easily accessible information on all aspects of adoption. NAIC publishes a variety of fact sheets on adoption issues, directories of adoption-related services, and a catalog of audiovisual materials on adoptions. NAIC does not place children for adoption or provide counseling. It does, however, make referrals for such services.*

Adoptive Families of America

3333 Highway 100 North

Minneapolis, MN 55422

Tel: 612-535-4829

1-800-372-3300

Committee for Single Adoptive Parents, Inc.

P.O. Box 15084

Chevy Chase, MD 20825

Tel: 202-966-6367

FACE (Families Adopting Children Everywhere)

Face Inc.

P.O. Box 28058

Baltimore, MD 21239

Tel: 410-488-2656 (Help-line)

International Concerns Committee for Children
911 Cypress Drive
Boulder, CO 80303
Tel: 303-494-8333

Joint Council on International Children's Services
P.O. Box 5636
Washington, D.C. 20016
Tel: 202-687-2202

*North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)
970 Raymond Avenue, Suite 106
St. Paul, MN 55114
Tel: 612-644-3036
Fax: 612-644-9848

**This organization can provide a list of parent support groups in a specific region of the United States.*

National Council for Adoption
1930 17th Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20009
Tel: 202-328-1200

Appendix B

Magazines and Books

Magazines

Adoptive Families (formerly OURS magazine)
1-800-372-3300
Complimentary copy available by calling the above number

ODS News
Open Door Society of Massachusetts
1-800-93A-DOPT

Single Parents With Adopted Kids
4108 Washington Rd. #101
Kenosha, WI 53144

Books

General Information

Adamec, Christine and Pierce, William L. *The Encyclopedia of Adoption*. Facts on File, Inc.: June 1991.

Adamec, Christine. *There Are Babies To Adopt*. Windsor Publishing Corporation: 1991.

Alexander-Roberts, Colleen. *The Essential Adoption Handbook*. Taylor Publishing Co.: 1993.

Erichsen, Heino and Nelson-Erichsen, Jean. *How To Adopt Internationally: A Guide for Agency-Directed & Independent Adoption*. Los Ninos International Adoption & Information Center: 1993.

Gilman, Lois. *The Adoption Resource Book: All the Things You Need to Know & Ought to Know about Creating an Adoptive Family*. Harper Collins Publishers, Inc.: 1987.

Independent Adoption Manual. Advocate Press: June 1993.

Knoll, Jean and Murphy, Mary-Kate. *International Adoption: Sensitive Advice for Prospective Parents*. Chicago Review Press: 1994.

Hicks, Randall B. *ADOPTING IN AMERICA: How to Adopt Within One Year* (revised 1996-97 edition). WordSlinger Press: 1995.

Hicks, Randall B. *Adoption Stories for Young Children*. WordSlinger Press: 1995.

Wirth, Eileen and Worden, Joan. *How to Adopt a Child from Another Country*. Abingdon Press: 1993.

Adoption of Older Children

Jewett, Claudia. *Adopting the Older Child*. Harvard Common Press: 1978.

Kadushin, Alfred. *Adopting Older Children*. Columbia University Press: 1970.

Mansfield, Gianforte and Waldmann. *Don't Touch My Heart — Healing the Pain of an Unattached Child*. Pinon Press: 1994.

Children's Literature

Bloom, Suzanne. *A Family for Jamie: An Adoption Story*. Crown Books for Young Readers: 1991.

Krementz, Jill. *How It Feels to Be Adopted*. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.: 1988.

Cultural and Racial Differences

Erichsen, Heino R. and Nelson, Erichsen, Jean. *Butterflies in the Wind: Spanish-Indian Children with White Parents*. Los Ninos International Adoption & Information Center: 1992.

Single Parent Adoption

Marindin, Hope, ed. *Handbook for Single Adoptive Parents*. Committee for Single Adoptive Parents: 1992.

Parenting and Adjustment

Bartels-Rabb, Lisa and Van Gulden, Holly. *Real Parents, Real Children: Parenting The Adopted Child*. Crossroad Publishing Co.: 1993.

Brodzinsky, David; Schechter, Marshall; and Henig, Robin. *Being Adopted: The Lifelong Search for Self*. Doubleday & Company, Inc.: 1993.

Register, Cheri. *Are Those Kids Yours?: American Families with Children Adopted from Other Countries*. Free Press: 1990.

Appendix C

Additional Information on Adoptions and Foreign Travel

Section 1: Government Information

● Automated Fax Service

A number of Office of Children's Issues adoption flyers are available by automated fax for anyone with a fax machine equipped with a telephone handset. The telephone number for all information through the autofax is 202-647-3000. Callers should follow the prompts to select the information that they wish to receive. All Travel Warnings, Public Announcements and Consular Information Sheets are also available through this service.

● Internet

General information on international adoption and specific information on adoption in a number of foreign countries and on foreign travel is also available via Internet. The Internet address for the Bureau of Consular Affairs is <http://travel.state.gov>.

● Consular Affairs Bulletin Board (CABB)

If you have a personal computer, modem and communications software, you can access the Consular Affairs Bulletin Board or CABB. The service will also provide information about foreign travel and is free of charge.

Modem Number: 202-647-9225

Modem Speed: Will accommodate 300, 1200, 2400, 9600 or 14400 bps

Terminal Communications Program: Set to N-8-1 (No parity, 8 bits, 1 stop bit)

● Mail In Requests

All of the flyers available on the automated fax service are also available in printed form. The order form, section two of Appendix C, can be used to obtain these flyers. Simply circle the flyer(s) that you wish and send the order form to: Office of Children's Issues, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington D.C. 20520-4818. Please enclose a large stamped, self-addressed envelope. For printed copies of Travel Warnings, Public Announcements, Consular Information Sheets and other general travel-related information, send a 8 1/2 X 11 inch self-addressed envelope with \$3 in stamps attached to the Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis Management, Room 4811A, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520-4818.

Section II: Country-Specific Adoption Information Flyers

To order by mail, simply circle the flyer(s) that you wish and send the order form with your name and address to The Office of Children's Issues, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington D.C. 20520-4818. Please enclose an 8 1/2 X 11 inch stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Albania	Jordan
Antigua	Korea
Argentina	Latvia
Austria	Lebanon
Belarus	Lithuania
Bolivia	Marshall Islands
Brazil	Mexico
Bulgaria	Moldova
Chile	Morocco
China	Nepal
Columbia	Nicaragua
Costa Rica	Pakistan
Czech Republic	Panama
Dominican Republic	Paraguay
Ecuador	Peru
El Salvador	Philippines
Estonia	Poland
Georgia	Romania
Germany	Russia
Greece	Slovakia
Guatemala	Sri-Lanka
Guyana	Syria
Haiti	Taiwan
Honduras	Thailand
Hong Kong	Ukraine
Hungary	Uruguay
India	Uzbekistan
Iran	Venezuela
Ireland	Vietnam
Israel	(Former) Yugoslavia
Japan	

Section III: TWENTY-FIVE SOURCE COUNTRIES

Countries of Nationality Ranked by Number of U. S. Adoption Visas Issued*

China	2130
Russia	1896
Korea	1666
Guatemala	449
India	371
Paraguay	351
Colombia	350
Vietnam	318
Philippines	298
Romania	275
Brazil	146
Bulgaria	110
Lithuania	98
Chile	90
Mexico	83
Ecuador	67
Ethiopia	63
Japan	63
Latvia	59
Thailand	53
Georgia	51

*Statistics compiled from U.S. Department of State *Report of Immediate Relative Visas Issued*, period from October 1, 1994 to September 30, 1995 (Fiscal Year 1995).